installation of new telephone connections in the districts during the aforesaid period as well as the existing waiting list therein; and

(c) by when the waiting list of landline, WLL and mobile phones would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of landline, WLL and mobile phones provided by BSNL during the last two years i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05 in Mau, Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar and Jaunpur districts of Uttar Pradesh was as follows:

Sl. No.	District	Landline	WLL	Mobile
1.	Mau	3607	641	11377
2.	Azamgarh	2124	529	19075
3.	Sultanpur	6743	729	12747
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	920	815	12165
5.	Jaunpur	3156	3071	21853

(b) and (c) The details of applications received for installation of new telephone connections in respect of the five districts during the last two years and status of waiting list was as follows:

Sl. No.	District	No. of applications received	Waiting list as on 30-11-2005*
1.	Mau	36386	12690
2.	Azamgarh	53390	6859
3.	Sultanpur	31787	9811
4.	Ambedkar Nagar	4458	2723
5.	Jaunpur	55725	37528

*Latest available.

The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2007 progressively.

Voluntary retirement benefits to employees of ITI, Rai Bareli

3244. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services rendered under other Government of India Public Sector Undertakings need to be reckoned with while calculating Voluntary Retirement compensation in respect of employees of Indian Telephone Industries Limited, who took voluntary retirement as per scheme notified by DPE's OM dated 5th May, 2000;

(b) if so, whether some employees of I.T.I. Rai Bareli were deprived of this benefit while calculating their Voluntary Retirement ex-gratia; and

(c) if so, what corrective measures Government propose to take to do justice with such erstwhile employees of the Rai Bareli Unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department of Public Enterprises O.M. dated 5th May, 2000 does not mention reckoning of previous services rendered under other Government of India Public Sector Undertaking while calculating Voluntary Retirement compensation. However, DPE O.M. No. 2(32)/97-DPE(WC) dated 28th February, 2002 provides for the following:—

> "If the service with each PSU is continuous (without break) and PF and Earned Leave have been transferred from one PSU to other PSU, then past service may be counted in case the employees avails himself of VRS/VSS as per the scheme notified by DPE's O.M. dated 5th May, 2000."

(b) No employee of Rai Bareli unit of ITI Limited, who fulfilled the eligibility criteria as per DPE guidelines as above, has been denied the benefits of past service rendered in other Government of India Public Sector Undertakings, while calculating VR ex-gratia.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Distribution of SIM cards in Chhattisgarh

†3245. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3743 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April 2005 and state:

(a) the number of SIM, Cards distributed alongwith the number of those whose distributions has been kept pending in Chhattisgarh during the last two years;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.